



## CLAIMS – MARKED UP VERSION

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-purpose construction ~~assembly~~ panel comprising:  
a plurality of parallel vertical stud members of generally equal length possessing a first terminal end and a second terminal end;  
  
a at least one means for reinforcing said plurality of studs comprising a unitary elongated metal plate-like member formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs terminating in a first end and a second end, said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end; a first flange extending perpendicularly upwards from said first end and a second flange extending perpendicularly upward from said second end to permit fastening to the adjacent studs, said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis, said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange, said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange extends to and overlaps the adjacent parallel upright studs which define the width of said elongated plate-like member located between each stud member whereby said ~~assembly~~ panel can support excessive loads due to weight, wind, or sheer forces; and  
  
~~an anchor means attached to said second terminal end of said parallel stud members; and~~  
  
a first one or more horizontal or vertical expansion-contracting means are slideably attached to ~~said first terminal end of said parallel stud members~~ whereby said ~~assembly~~ panel

will be able to expand or contract in respect to horizontal or vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) A multi-purpose construction assembly panel as defined in claim 1 wherein one of the horizontal expansion-contraction means is slideably attached to said first terminal end of said parallel stud members and another is slideably attached to said second terminal end of said parallel stud members ~~the anchor means comprises a horizontal expansion-contraction means slideably attached to said first terminal end of said parallel stud members~~ whereby said assembly panel will be able to expand or contract in response to vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

3. (Currently Amended) A multi-purpose construction assembly panel as defined in claim 1 wherein one or more of the vertical expansion-contraction means ~~a first vertical expansion-contraction means~~ is slideably attached parallel to one or more of the ~~a first terminal~~ vertical stud members, and slideably attached perpendicular to said first one or more of the horizontal expansion-contraction means ~~and to said anchor means whereby said assembly will be able to expand or contract in response to horizontal and vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A multi-purpose construction assembly as defined in claim 3 1 wherein ~~a second~~ said vertical and horizontal expansion-contraction means ~~is~~ are slideably attached, ~~parallel to a second terminal vertical stud member opposite said first terminal~~

~~vertical stud member, and slideably attached perpendicular to said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and said anchor means whereby said assembly will be able to expand or contract in response to horizontal and vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.~~

5. (Withdrawn) A multi-purpose construction assembly as defined in claim 2 wherein a second vertical expansion-contraction means is slideably attached to a first terminal vertical stud member and slideably attached to said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and slideably attached to said anchor means whereby said assembly will be able to expand or contract in response to vertical and horizontal environmental forces and , expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

6. (Withdrawn) A multi-purpose construction assembly as defined in claim 5 wherein a second vertical expansion-contraction means is slideably attached to a second terminal vertical stud member and slideably attached to said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and slideably attached to said anchor means whereby said assembly will be able to expand or contract in response to vertical and horizontal environmental forces and , expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

7. (Currently Amended) A multi-purpose construction ~~assembly~~ panel comprising:  
a plurality of parallel stud members of decreasing length possessing a first terminal ends which forms the hypotenuse of a triangle, and a second terminal ends;

a means for reinforcing said plurality of studs comprising a unitary elongated metal plate-like member formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs terminating in a first end and a second end, said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end; a first flange extending perpendicularly upwards from said first end and a second flange extending perpendicularly upward from said second end to permit fastening to the adjacent studs, said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis, said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange, said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange extends to and overlaps the adjacent parallel upright studs which define the width of said elongated plate-like member located between each stud member whereby said assembly can support excessive loads due to weight, wind, or shear forces;

~~an anchor means fixedly attached to said first terminal end of said parallel stud members along the descending slope of the hypotenuse; and~~

one or more horizontal or vertical ~~an expansion-contracting~~ion means are slideably attached to ~~said second terminal end of~~ said parallel stud members whereby said assembly panel will be able to expand or contract in response to horizontal or vertical environmental forces and, expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.

8. (Currently Amended) A multi-purpose construction assembly panel as defined in claim 7 wherein;

~~a second first expansion-contraction assembly means is slideably attached to the longest parallel stud member~~ slideably attached to the first terminal ends;

a second expansion-contraction assembly is slideably attached to the second terminal ends; and

a third expansion-contraction assembly is slidably attached to the longest parallel stud member.

~~and fixedly attached to said anchor means said assembly can expand or contract in response to horizontal forces and be expanded or reduced to fit within a space without disassembling or cutting said assembly.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The multi-purpose construction assembly defined in claim 1 wherein the means for reinforcing said plurality of studs further comprises a box-like structured formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange;

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

10. (Currently Amended) The multi-purpose construction assembly panel defined in claim 7 wherein the means for reinforcing said plurality of studs further comprises a box-like structured formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange;

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a multi-purpose construction

assembly panel comprising:

placing a plurality of generally equal length stud members possessing a first and second terminal ends ~~and second terminal end~~ generally parallel to each other;

attaching a first ~~expansion-compression~~ contraction means to the first terminal end of ~~said parallel stud members to said first terminal ends~~;

attaching a second expansion-contraction means to said second terminal end;

attaching a first vertical expansion-contraction means to one of said plurality of stud members;

attaching a second vertical expansion-contraction means to another of said plurality of stud members; and

~~attaching an anchoring means to the second terminal ends of said parallel stud members~~;

inserting a means to reinforce the parallel studs between each pair of said parallel studs.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of constructing a multi-purpose construction assembly comprising:

placing a plurality of stud members possessing a first terminal end and second terminal end parallel to each other;

attaching a first horizontal expansion-compression means to the first terminal end of said parallel stud members;

attaching a second horizontal expansion-compression means to the second terminal end of said parallel stud members;

inserting a means to reinforce the parallel studs between each pair of parallel studs.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11 ~~further comprising attaching a first vertical expansion-contraction means to a first terminal stud between said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and said anchor means.~~ wherein said first and second expansion-contraction means are slideably attached.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~13~~ 11 ~~further comprising attaching a second vertical expansion-contraction means to a second terminal stud between said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and said anchor means.~~ wherein said first and second vertical expansion-contraction means are slideably attached.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~12~~ 11 ~~further comprising attaching a first vertical expansion-contraction means to a first terminal stud between said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and second horizontal expansion-contraction means.~~



wherein said first and second expansion-contraction means are slideably attached; and said first and second vertical expansion-contraction means are slideably attached.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~15~~ 11 further comprising ~~attaching a second vertical expansion-contraction means to a second terminal stud between said first horizontal expansion-contraction means and second horizontal expansion-contraction~~ means the means for reinforcing the parallel studs between each pair of parallel studs comprises a box-like structure formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member also possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange; and

said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a multi-purpose construction assembly panel comprising:

placing a plurality of vertical stud members of decreasing length, each possessing an upper terminal end and a lower terminal end, and parallel to each other;

attaching an anchoring means to the upper terminal end of said parallel stud members;

attaching a horizontal ~~expansion-compression~~ expansion-contraction means ~~perpendicular~~ to the lower terminal end of said parallel stud members; and

inserting a means to reinforce the parallel studs between each pair of parallel vertical studs members.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 further comprising attaching a vertical expansion-contraction means to the longest terminal stud.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of constructing a multi-purpose construction assembly panel comprising:

placing a plurality of vertical stud members of decreasing length, each possessing an upper terminal end and a lower terminal end, and parallel to each other;

attaching a first anchoring means to the upper terminal end of said parallel stud members;

attaching a second anchoring means to the lower terminal end of said parallel stud members;

attaching a vertical expansion-contraction ~~expansion-compression~~ means to the longest terminal vertical stud member; and

inserting a means to reinforce the parallel studs between each pair of parallel vertical studs members.

20. (New) A method according to claim 17 wherein the means for reinforcing the parallel studs between each pair of parallel vertical studs members comprises a box-like structured formed from a pair of complementary unitary elongated metal plate-like members formed of a finite length defined by two parallel upright studs;

said unitary elongated metal plate-like member terminates in a first end and a second end;

said unitary plate-like member possesses a first horizontal edge and a second horizontal edge between the first end and second end;

said first end and second end of the elongated metal plate-like member extend generally upward and perpendicular from the elongated metal plate to form a first flange on said first end and a second flange on said second end to permit the fastening of the elongated plate to the surface of the adjacent parallel upright studs;

said first end of the elongated metal plate incorporates a pair of parallel notches along the horizontal axis;

\_\_\_\_\_ said first horizontal edge and the second horizontal edge of the elongated plate are folded downward and perpendicular to the elongated plate forming a first downward flange and a second downward flange;

\_\_\_\_\_ said first downward flange of the first horizontal edge is substantially longer than the second downward flange of the second horizontal edge and the width of first downward flange is greater than the width of said elongated plate-like member.